3: Pijoan D-5 (ca. 1945) 1946
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cattle and other goods for objects of cheap manufacture. Yet these objects may be of real intrinsic value to the Indians and under such circumstances it is difficult to judge with fairness. However, in the larger settlements Indians have learned the true cost of materials and considerable agitation occurs in trading. Payment for services performed in isolated communities can be accomplished by the use of such commodities as salt and tobacco. In fact, many will prefer these to actual money: in the more remote areas money per se is meaningless and payment is performed with gifts.

These days there is an ever increasing want of objects from the outside world. The items most desired are salt, machetes, axes, knives, adzes, hoes, iron cooking pots, stoves, fish hooks, files, shotguns, ammunition, cotton goods, ribbons, blue dungarees, looking glasses, combs and tobacco. Cereal grains and flour are also desired.

The enterprise of the Indian today is centered mainly around the creation of useful objects. Such objects, therefore, are often used for exchange purposes. Stone work is limited to the manufacture of crude metates or maize grinders (walpa-akbaya) which are used for grinding maize. In the northern part of the Miskito coast a coarse brownish cloth is pounded from the inner bark of a tree closely resembling the rubber trees *(Castilla* sp.). The cloth as well as the tree is referred to as *tunu* or *tikam*. The bark cloth is made into sheets or blankets for bed use or into loin cloths *(palpura)*. This cloth is of high value. Pottery once a valuable commodity to these Indians is not alonger made.

Today the main enterprise for the Miskito Indians for barter, exchange or payment are as follows: rubber collecting, banana agriculture, boat making, mine working, cattle and pig raising, general work on rivers, fur from wild animals, and general labor. However, it is to be noted that the Indian could and does in most instances subsist on his immediate environment.

VEGETABLE FOODS

Agriculture is not highly developed on the Mosquito coast, because the many plant-destroying insects limit the process of cultivable products, and the bush springs up early after the ground has been cleared. Thus after two or three crops have been obtained from a plantation *(kanana)*, a variety of weedy looking shrubs and grass, which make cultivation difficult, gets a hold on the land. The Indian then does not consider it worthwhile to undertake the labor needed to keep the ground clear but prefers to set up a new plantation *(insla)* by cutting down a patch of usable forest.